

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 05866 271346Z

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ACTION SS-25

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R 271316Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8238

INFO USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 05866

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SC, FR, SO, EG, ET, FT

SUBJECT: LOYADA INCIDENT AND FTAI

REFS: (A) USUN 706; (B) CAIRO 2511 (BOTH NOTAL)

1. ON FEB, 26, EMBOFF ASKED QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA HAREL FOR ANY BACKGROUND HE COULD GIVE US ON REPORTS EMANATING FROM SOMALI SOURCES THAT TALKS ON THE LOYADA INCIDENT WERE ABOUT TO BE HELD IN CAIRO. HAREL SAID HE HAD SEEN THE REPORT DESCRIBING AMBASSADOR DE GUIRINGAUD'S CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR BENNETT ON THIS SUBJECT (REF A), AND THAT HE WAS AS ASTONISHED AS GUIRINGAUD HAD BEEN. ALTHOUGH IT WAS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT SOMETHING OF WHICH HE WAS NOT AWARE WAS TAKING PLACE, HAREL THOUGHT HE WOULD KNOW IF ANY SUCH TALKS WERE CONTEMPLATED.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 05866 271346Z

2. HAREL SAID THE FRENCH HAVE NO CRITICISM OF

EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN THE MATTER BUT THAT THEY ARE NOT GOING TO BE RUSHED BY THE SOMALIS INTO PREMATURE TALKS ABOUT THE FTAI. THE SOMALIS' AIM, HE CONTINUED, APPEARS TO BE TO FORCE THE FRENCH INTO STRICTLY BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE FTAI'S FUTURE. THE FRENCH HAVE NO INTENTION OF EXCLUDING OTHER INTERESTED STATES IN THE AREA FROM THE PICTURE AND, IN FACT, ARE ATTEMPTING TO INCLUDE REGIONAL STATES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN A SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES. WHEN SUFFICIENT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN THIS DIRECTION, THE FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO TALK WITH THE SOMALIS AND OTHERS ABOUT SENDING A MISSION TO THE TERRITORY.

3. AS FOR UNSC DISCUSSION OF LOYADA, HAREL INDICATED THE FRENCH ARE NOT EAGER FOR AN EARLY MEETING BUT CONTINUE TO THINK THEY HAVE A GOOD CASE IF THE SOMALIS INSIST. HE IMPLIED THAT THE FRENCH PREFER TO POSTPONE SC CONSIDERATION AS LONG AS POSSIBLE AND AT LEAST UNTIL THEY HAVE MADE FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARDS ARRANGING GUARANTEES.

4. HAREL DESCRIBED ETHIOPIAN FONMIN KIFLE'S RECENT INTERVIEW IN WHICH HE SAID THE FRENCH PRESENCE IN FTAI COULD BE REPLACED BY OTHER GUARANTEES AFTER INDEPENDENCE (PARIS 5262) AS "UNFORTUNATE". THE FRENCH HAD EXPLAINED TO THE ETHIOPIANS THAT SUCH COMMENTS REDUCED ETHIOPIA'S OPTIONS AND WERE GRATIFIED THAT THEY WERE NOT REPEATED IN ETHIOPIA'S OPENING ADDRESS TO THE OAU MINISTERS MEETING. HAREL BEMOANED THE ETHIOPIAN TENDENCY, STEMMING FROM A FEELING OF INFERIORITY, TO TRY TO OUTDO THE SOMALIS IN ANTI-COLONIAL RHETORIC; THE FRENCH WERE TRYING TO PERSUADE ADDIS THAT SUCH TACTICS COULD ONLY HARM ETHIOPIA'S OWN INTERESTS.

5. HAREL AT ONE POINT REMARKED THAT THE SOMALIS WOULD NOT FORCE THE FRENCH OUT "BEFORE A YEAR". THIS PROBABLY INDICATES THAT THE FRENCH CALENDAR FOR FTAI INDEPENDENCE HAS ALREADY BEEN ADVANCED APPRECIABLY FROM THE 18 TO 24 MONTHS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 05866 271346Z

RUSH

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